1 2 3 4 5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 6 AT TACOMA 7 STATE OF WASHINGTON, C17-5806RJB 8 Plaintiff, 9 v. 10 THE GEO GROUP, INC., a Florida corporation, 11 Defendant. 12 13 C17-5769RJB UGOCHUKWU GOODLUCK NWAUZOR, on behalf of all those 14 ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS FOR similarly situated, and FERNANDO NEW TRIAL DATE AGUIRRE-URBINA, individually, 15 Plaintiffs, 16 17 v. 18 THE GEO GROUP, INC., a Florida corporation, 19 Defendant. 20 This matter comes before the Court on the Plaintiff State of Washington's Motion to Set 21 New Minimum Wage Act Liability Trial Date and to Set Date for Phase III of Trial (Washington 22 v. The GEO Group, Inc., 17-5806, Dkt. 493) and Plaintiffs Ugochukwu Goodluck Nwauzor and 23 Fernando Aguirre-Urbina's Motion for a New Trial Date on their Minimum Wage Act Claims 24 **ORDER** 

(*Nwauzor v. The GEO Group*, 17-5769, Dkt. 383). The Court has considered the pleadings filed regarding the motions and the remaining record.

On June 1, 2021, trial began. After 11 days, jury deliberations over part of three days, and a declaration of the jury that they could not agree on a verdict, a mistrial was declared on June 17, 2021. Dkt. 376.

The Plaintiffs' motions should be granted. These cases are some of the oldest cases on the Court's docket and are the highest priority for resetting. While the Court must consider several pressing criminal matters, these cases are second only to those criminal cases for resetting. Accordingly, trial in the first phase of these cases is reset to begin on **October 12**, **2021**, and the supplemental pretrial conference is reset for **October 1**, **2021**, at **8:30 a.m**.

If the parties feel that a modification of the pre-trial order, or supplements to motions *in limine*, or changes to the jury instructions are appropriate, they may provide the Court with such proposals by **August 26, 2021**, and additional motions, if any, should be filed by **August 26, 2021**.

The previous orders of the Court remain in effect. Trial will proceed as before – in phases. It will not deal with the State's equitable claims until a jury decides if the Minimum Wage Act is applicable. The State's position will likely be much stronger if it starts from a favorable jury verdict.

## IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

ROBERT J. BRYAN United States District Judge